

3 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

SUBJECT: OSI Contributions to the NIS

REFERENCE: Your memorandum, same subject,
dated 20 March 1958

1. I agree that we should talk over as soon as may be ways and means of improving the situation set forth in reference memorandum. Before so doing, however, I think it would be helpful if I give you our general views and comments on this matter.

2. If I understand your proposals correctly, you want OSI to take over the coordination responsibility for Chapter VII (Scientific) and the production responsibility for Section 70 (Introduction to Chapter VII), Section 76 (Miscellaneous Scientific), and Section 45 (Health and Sanitation) on areas outside the Soviet Bloc. Also, you want OSI to assume responsibility for negotiating, funding, and guiding external contracts for these sections beginning with FY 1959. Further, you want a drastic reduction in the basic intelligence requirements of all scientific chapters and sections (including Section 45), both in scope and detail of coverage.

3. The fundamental principle of the NIS program, and of all intelligence production for that matter, as laid down in NSCID No. 3, is the allocation of production and maintenance responsibilities to those agencies which are best qualified by reason of mission, production capability, and primary interest. Under DCID 3/4 these responsibilities for Chapter VII are specifically assigned to the Scientific Estimates Committee, which has further allocated three sections of Chapter VII to CIA/OSI. We believe these allocations are proper ones. To re-assign these coordinating and production responsibilities to OSI not only would violate the fundamental principle, but also would require the creation of scientific capabilities within OSI

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which would duplicate those already existing in OSI. The reallocation of Section 45 to this Office would be equally discordant with the fundamental principle.

4. The question of which office should assume the funding of external contracts for scientific chapters and sections (including Section 45) is one on which I have no strong views. I believe it is the CIA practice for each office to support its own external contracts. However, OSI is now funding for NIS work in other government agencies, and could extend this to your present contracts if budgetary allowances can be suitably adjusted. It does appear, however, that your estimated future contract costs which double or triple present levels will be excessive in comparison with other NIS production.

5. The basic intelligence requirements for the scientific sections and Section 45 are generally consonant in scope and detail of coverage with other NIS topics as jointly determined in accordance with the NIS mission established under NSCID No. 3. Your proposal for a drastic reduction of their coverage would result in a product comparable to the summary sections of Chapter I which the NIS Committee has already determined to be insufficient for full NIS coverage. This is not to say that the present requirements are immutable. The NIS Committee is continually revising the outline guides in the light of experience and new factors. But to drastically reduce them in scope and detail because considerable effort is required to produce them would seriously jeopardize the fundamental objectives of the NIS program.

6. The NIS Committee has progressively reduced the Chapter VII annual production commitment from the original coverage of eight areas, which is required of all other NIS chapters, to the present annual requirement of three Chapters VII. This was in recognition of the limited manpower available for Chapter VII and the fact that relatively few areas of the world have significant scientific capabilities--8 Soviet Bloc and 16 non-Soviet Bloc countries in all. It is to be noted, however, *nevertheless*, that the sections of Chapter VII published since June 1955 have averaged but eight printed pages each.

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7. Tab A of reference memorandum sets forth a number of points respecting the production costs, requirements, distribution, utility and validity of NIS Section 45 which should later be discussed in detail. Production costs would certainly appear to be high, and even excessive for future estimates. By Dr. Usher's own admission, the Public Health Service could do a better job by a little on-the-spot collection effort. Even so, we have found marked improvement in Sections 45 produced under the coordination of OSI over those done by Army under the old allocation existing prior to FY 1956. We believe the present outline guide of Section 45 to be consonant with NIS objectives. In addition to World War II and Korean War experience in the extensive use of the JANIS "Health and Sanitation" chapters, from which the NIS requirement was developed and broadened to serve the wider objectives of the NIS, requirements parallel to those of the NIS have also more recently been indicated by formal reports of widely different activities, such as:

- "Military Medical Intelligence Studies"
issued by the JIC/JCS
- "Short Reports on Health Conditions"
issued by DSI/JIB
- "Health and Sanitation Chapter -- Terrain Study No. 41"
issued by the U.S. Army Forces, Far East
- "International Epidemiology Series"
issued by the Public Health Service.

Some of these reports contain more, some less detail than the NIS, as suited to their specific uses. The last two reports above are almost identical to the NIS requirements in outline, detail and scope of coverage. The distribution, use, and validity of the NIS have, of course, been carefully evaluated on a considerably broader basis than that in Tab A. Some 350 Sections 45 on each area are normally disseminated throughout the government as determined by individual agency requirements. This is not necessarily done to serve any immediate requirement, but to ensure that potential users will have at hand the basic intelligence they would need in the event of a major emergency. Nor is the NIS designed to serve wholly a particular group or activity such as a Public Health official or an embassy doctor. It serves a general requirement from which specialized requirements

can and should be developed through other media. The frequency of use of individual NIS units is not the criterion against which to measure its true value. The real test is that it shall adequately fulfill its purpose when it is needed.

8. To summarize:

a. We do not find acceptable your proposal to reallocate to OSI the coordination and production responsibilities of Chapter VII and Section 45.

b. We agree to work out more suitable funding arrangements for external NIS contracts to the extent of assuming the full responsibility if it appears feasible and necessary.

c. We consider the present basic intelligence requirements for Chapter VII and Section 45 are generally consonant with the mission and purpose of the NIS program, and any revisions should be directed toward their improvement, not their decimation.

9. I am confident that we can develop additional measures within the framework of the present allocations to lighten your task, to improve the quality of the NIS contributions, and to keep contract costs in line with other NIS production. Perhaps our staff can from time to time work directly with your contract activities to furnish guidance and direction to improve their contributions. Also, we might assist in developing better NIS collection requirements to strengthen the quality of contributions under the maintenance program. These and other matters can be more fully discussed at our forthcoming meeting.

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Assistant Director
Basic Intelligence

cc: DD/I

Orig & 1 - addressee
1 - Ch. VII file
1 - Sec 45 file
1 - chrono

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